

What is claimed is:

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2
3 1. A system for recording and delivering information, the system comprising:
4 a communications interface; and
5 a controller computer being linked with the communications interface, the
6 controller computer having:
7 a database to store the information recorded by an information provider;
8 a first logic unit linked with the database to establish via the
9 communications interface a first communication connection with the information
10 provider over which the information provider records the information; and
11 a second logic unit linked with the database to establish, in response to a
12 user selecting to receive the information and via the communications interface, a
second communications connection with the user and to deliver the information
via the second communications connection to the user.

1 2. The system as described in claim 1, wherein the database further stores a
2 description of the information.

1 3. The system as described in claim 2, wherein the controller computer further
2 has a third logic unit linked with the database to establish a computer connection with an
3 information provider computer and to receive via the computer connection the description
4 from the information provider.

1 4. The system as described in claim 3, wherein the computer connection is
2 established through a web site accessible by the information provider computer.

1 5. The system as described in claim 2, wherein the controller computer further
2 has a third logic unit linked with the database to establish a computer connection with a
3 user computer and to deliver the description to the user computer via the computer
4 connection.

1 6. The system as described in claim 5, wherein the computer connection is
2 established through a web site accessible by the user computer.

1 7. The system as described in claim 2, wherein the description includes a price
2 for the information.

1 8. The system as described in claim 7, wherein the price includes a rate per
2 period of time.

1 9. The system as described in claim 1, wherein the first communications
2 connection includes an audio connection.

1 10. The system as described in claim 1, wherein the first communications
2 connection includes a video connection.

1 11. The system as described in claim 1, wherein the first communications
2 connection is established over a computer network.

1 12. The system as described in claim 1, wherein the first communications
2 connection is established over a telephone network.

1 13. The system as described in claim 1, wherein the second communications
2 connection includes an audio connection.

1 14. The system as described in claim 1, wherein the second communications
2 connection includes a video connection.

1 15. The system as described in claim 1, wherein the second communications
2 connection is established over a computer network.

1 16. The system as described in claim 1, wherein the second communications
2 connection is established over a telephone network.

1 17. The system as described in claim 1, wherein the controller computer has a
2 third logic unit to bill the user for the information.

1 18. The system as described in claim 17, wherein the controller computer has a
2 fourth logic unit to track how long the information is delivered to the user and the third
3 logic unit bills the user based upon how long the information is delivered.

1 19. The system as described in claim 1, wherein the database further stores
2 information about a user account.

1 20. The system as described in claim 19, wherein the controller computer has a
2 third logic unit to deduct an amount from the user account for the information.

1 21. The system as described in claim 19, wherein the controller computer has a
2 third logic unit to track how long the information is delivered to the user and a fourth
3 logic unit to deduct from the user account an amount based upon how long the
4 information is delivered.

1 22. The system as described in claim 1, wherein the database further stores
2 information about an account set up for the information provider.

1 23. The system as described in claim 22, wherein the controller computer has a
2 third logic unit to credit an amount to the account when the information is delivered to the
3 user.

1 24. The system as described in claim 22, wherein the controller computer has a
2 third logic unit to track how long the information is delivered to the user and a fourth
3 logic unit to credit to the account an amount based upon how long the information is
4 delivered.

1 25. The system as described in claim 22, wherein the controller computer has a
2 third logic unit to track how long the information is delivered to the user and a fourth
3 logic unit to credit to the account an amount based upon how long the information is
4 delivered minus a fee.

1 26. A method of recording information and delivering the information to a user,
2 the method comprising:
3 establishing a first communications connection with an information provider;
4 recording and storing the information provided by the information provider over
5 the first communications connection;
6 in response to the user selecting to receive the information, establishing a second
7 communications connection with the user; and
8 delivering the information to the user over the second communications
9 connection.

1 27. The method as described in claim 26, further comprising:
2 storing a description of the information provided by the information provider; and
3 delivering the description to the user.

1 28. The method as described in claim 27, further comprising:
2 establishing a first computer connection with an information provider computer;
3 and
4 receiving the description from the information provider over the first computer
5 connection.

1 29. The method as described in claim 27, further comprising:
2 establishing a second computer connection with a user computer, wherein the
3 description is delivered to the user via the second computer connection.

1 30. The method as described in claim 27, wherein the description is included in a
2 list of information providers.

1 31. The method as described in claim 30, wherein the list of information providers
2 is delivered to the user in response to a keyword search.

1 32. The method as described in claim 30, wherein the list of information providers
2 is delivered to the user in response to a category selection.

1 33. The method as described in claim 26, wherein the first communications
2 connection includes an audio connection.

1 34. The method as described in claim 26, wherein the first communications
2 connection includes a video connection.

1 35. The method as described in claim 26, wherein the first communications
2 connection is established over a computer network.

1 36. The method as described in claim 26, wherein the first communications
2 connection is established over a telephone network.

1 37. The method as described in claim 26, wherein the second communications
2 connection includes an audio connection.

1 38. The method as described in claim 26, wherein the second communications
2 connection includes a video connection.

1 39. The method as described in claim 26, wherein the second communications
2 connection is established over a computer network.

1 40. The method as described in claim 26, wherein the second communications
2 connection is established over a telephone network.

1 41. A method of selling recorded information, the method comprising:
2 providing a description of the recorded information to a user;
3 in response to the user selecting to receive the recorded information, establishing a
4 communications connection with the user;
5 delivering the recorded information to the user over the communications
6 connection; and
7 billing the user for the recorded information delivered to the user.

1 42. The method as described in claim 41, further comprising:
2 establishing a computer connection with a user computer, wherein the description
3 of the recorded information is provided over the computer connection.

1 43. The method as described in claim 42, wherein the description is included in a
2 list of information providers.

1 44. The method as described in claim 43, wherein the list of information providers
2 is provided to the user in response to a keyword search.

1 45. The method as described in claim 43, wherein the list of information providers
2 is provided to the user in response to a keyword search.

1 46. The method as described in claim 41, wherein the communications connection
2 includes an audio connection.

1 47. The method as described in claim 41, wherein the communications connection
2 includes a video connection.

1 48. The method as described in claim 41, wherein the communications connection
2 is established over a computer network.

1 49. The method as described in claim 41, wherein the communications connection
2 is established over a telephone network.

1 50. The method as described in claim 41, further comprising:
2 establishing a user account for the user, wherein billing the user includes
3 deducting an amount from the user account.

1 51. The method as described in claim 50, further comprising:
2 tracking how long the information is delivered to the user, wherein the amount
3 deducted from the user account is based upon how long the information is delivered.

1 52. The method as described in claim 41, wherein the recorded information and
2 the description are provided by an information provider.

1 53. The method as described in claim 52, further comprising:
2 establishing an account for the information provider; and
3 crediting an amount to the account for the recorded information delivered to the
4 user.

1 54. The method as described in claim 53, further comprising:
2 tracking how long the information is delivered to the user, wherein the amount
3 credited to the account is based upon how long the information is delivered.

1 55. The method as described in claim 53, further comprising:
2 tracking how long the information is delivered to the user, wherein the amount
3 credited to the account is based upon how long the information is delivered minus a fee.

1 56. The method as described in claim 52, further comprising:
2 establishing a computer connection with the information provider, wherein the
3 description is provided by the information provider over the computer connection.